

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) A variable optical delay line comprising:

a plurality of fibers disposed in a closely spaced array, the array comprising a first parallel region, a curved region, and a second parallel region; each fiber having a first end disposed in a first linear array and a second end disposed in a second linear array, the curved regions of the fibers differing in radii of curvature to provide a successive series of monotonically different path lengths, the path lengths differing by a few millimeters or less to provide small delay time increments;

separately switchable reflectors disposed in each of the fibers, the reflectors switchable between reflection and transmission to provide coarse delay increments.

2. (Previously Presented) The delay line of claim 1 further including a MEMs mirror optical switch optically coupled to the plurality of fibers for switching at least one optical input signal among the fibers of the plurality.

3. (Previously Presented) The delay line of claim 1 wherein includes a the separately switchable reflectors comprise reflective Bragg gratings.

Claims 4-5 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

6. (Previously Presented) The delay line of claim 3 wherein the reflective Bragg gratings are formed in the second parallel regions.

Claim 7 was previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

8. (Previously Presented) The delay line of claim 1 wherein the plurality of fibers are secured to a substrate of sheet material.

9. (Previously Presented) The delay line of claim 2 wherein the at least one optical input signal is a single optical input signal and the optical switch comprises a 1XN MEMs mirror optical switch.

10. (Previously Presented) The delay line of claim 2 wherein the at least one optical input signal comprises a plurality of optical input signals and the optical switch comprises an NXN MEMs mirror optical switch.

11. (Previously Presented) The delay line of claim 2 wherein the at least one optical input signal comprises a plurality of optical input signals having respectively different wavelengths.

Kindly cancel Claims 12-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.